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Letter dated 31 December 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 30 December 2002 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the aggression committed by United States and British aircraft against civilian, religious and service establishments in the Basra and Nasiriyah governorates.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Salman Ali**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 31 December 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The United States Administration and its lackey the British Government have added a further crime to the record of their continual crimes against the people of Iraq.

At 7.40 a.m. on 26 December 2002 United States and British aircraft coming from Kuwait and supported by an E-2C aircraft from within Kuwaiti airspace fired a number of rockets at civilian, religious and service establishments, including broadcasting facilities, in the Basra and Nasiriyah governorates. This brutal aggression resulted in the death of three citizens and the wounding of 16 others, as well as the total destruction of a mosque on the outskirts of the city of Nasiriyah, a few metres from the house of the Prophet Abraham, peace be upon him. The aggression further caused damage to broadcasting facilities in the Basra and Nasiriyah governorates.

United States and British aerial bombardment of the cities, towns and villages of Iraq, which has been continual since 1991 and was intensified, becoming almost daily, in 1998, has resulted in the death of thousands of Iraqi civilians and the destruction of civilian installations, including housing, schools, factories, airports, grain storage facilities, mosques and churches. The number of hostile aerial sorties in the two illegal air exclusion zones has reached a total of 46,254.

The United States and Britain have been imposing air exclusion zones in northern and southern Iraq in defiance of international law, international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations and in defiance of the will of the international community, the whole of which has condemned such aggressive action, considering it as constituting acts of international terrorism, and demanded its immediate cessation.

Moreover, this barbaric terrorist aggression, in which the leaders of the State of Kuwait participate directly, represents a flagrant material breach of the Security Council resolutions on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, which call upon States to respect Iraq's sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity.

Within the framework of the responsibilities of the Secretariat of the United Nations, we trust that you will draw the attention of the Security Council to this aggression and the danger that it represents for peace and security in the region and in the world. We also call upon the Security Council to abandon its double standards and selectivity, faithfully perform its duties under the Charter, put an end to this terrorist aggression and hold its perpetrators, the United States, Britain and Kuwait, responsible for it under the law.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq